



Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana Incorporated

Affiliated with International Association of Fire Fighters
Affiliated with Indiana State AFL-CIO

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PS Docket No. 07-8; CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos. 03-264; 06-150, 06-169 and 96-86; EB Docket No. 06-119.

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana (PFFUI) was established in 1934 and currently represents approximately 6,200 active and 1,100 retired professional Fire Fighters in 65 Local Unions in communities throughout Indiana. Our work is guided by our belief in the right of all members of the Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana to participate in decisions which affect them, to work in a safe and healthy environment, and to be treated with dignity and respect.

On behalf the men and women of the PFFUI who put their lives on the line every day, I am writing to request your support for auction rules which would establish a National Public Safety Broadband Network. With the upcoming 700 MHz auction, our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety with an advanced, nationwide communications network while harnessing the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. Most important, for the first time, first responders will be in control of our communications network that will put us permanently where we belong — at the forefront of telecommunications innovation. America's first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland deserve nothing less as lives will depend on it.

The PFFUI joins our fellow professional fire fighters associations taking issue with those who would place commercial interests before the interests of public safety. The auction of the 700 MHz spectrum block is public safety's last, best opportunity to achieve both operable and interoperable communications. We do not have sufficient spectrum and we do not have operable communications, let alone interoperable communications. As a nation we have stood by for far too long as our communications system time and again failed our nation's first responders. The time has come to do what is right for public safety. Those who would rather keep the entire 700 MHz block for their own corporate interests are not focused on doing what is right for public safety.

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The PFFUI respectfully requests the FCC:

- License public safety's spectrum to a stand alone entity consisting of public safety leaders who will control the network and ensure it will be built to the standards of reliability and redundancy that public safety requires while also ensuring that the needs of local and regional stakeholders are understood;
- Create and auction a 10MHz or larger "E Block" of the 700MHz band;
- Require the winner of the auction of this E Block to have a binding agreement with public safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network *before* receiving their license;
- Support a public/private partnership and provide public safety with the ability to build-out in rural and underserved areas;
- Ensure that public safety in charge of the National Public Safety Broadband Network and not subordinate to the E Block auction winner as well as ensure that the National Public Safety Broadband Network stays competitive on the commercial side bringing the highest level of technology to public safety users;
- Ensure access to a satellite overlay to extend the reach of public safety's network;

Providing our nation's first responders with the same communications capabilities commercial customers have. Please do not allow this last, best opportunity to pass public safety by.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hanify
President

Copy to: The Honorable Steven Buyer
The Honorable Baron Hill
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
The Honorable Deborah Tate
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell

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